Meeting the Challenge of Private Sectors in Basic Telecom Services

189. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dual role of the DoT as operator and policy maker has been widely criticised as counter productive, if so, what is Government's response to this;

(b) in what manner Government propose to meet the challenges of the private operators in basic telephone and value added services in the competitive environment;

(c) whether it is a fact that no private operator can function efficiently if DoTs exchanges and facilities are not upto the mark; and

(d) what problems Government expect due to this and how Government propose to solve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) To meet the challenge of competition in the Telecom sector an exercise has been undertaken for distancing policy making functions from operational functions. A number of steps have also been taken which include streamlining the work at Telecom Headquarters for their speedy disposal, close monitoring of financial and physical targets formulation of elaborate strategy for upgrading the skill of the employees like setting up and strengthening of the existing training infrastructure with latest technology equipment, evolving appropriate training methodology for training in High-tech field for each group of personnel, deputing personnel for training to institutions in developed countries to acquire knowledge and expertise and modernisation of telecom operations. The DoT network particularly the long distance trunk network is being modernised by induction of state of the art switching and transmission systems. All trunk automatic exchanges at the highest level of the network hierarchy are being replaced by new technology switching systems which are capable of the most modern digital signalling techniques. Some of these new technology TAXs have been used for interworking with the digital cellular private networks. These have worked very efficiently and handled all inter network traffic without any problem. It will, therefore, be seen that modern exchanges/facilities are in place to route the traffic of private networks without any problem.

(d) By providing the interconnect/ gateway functionalities in the new technology Trunk Automatic Exchanges/ Tandems which are capable of handling more than a million busy hour call attempts and common channel signalling.

Khan Committee Report on Privatisation of DoT

190. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 346 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th November, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations of the Khan Committee to privatise Telecommunications Department;

(b) if so, the details of the decision so far taken on each of the recommendations and to what extent these have been implemented;

(c) if not the reasons therefor and by when a final decision is likely to be taken and implemented; and

(d) whether Government would lay a copy of the report of the khan' Committee on the Table of the House?